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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 4 December 1974

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1. [redacted] Talked with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, with regard to the telephone exchange between Senator Stennis and the Director yesterday. I said we hoped the Senator understood the Director's position on this matter in view of the agreement that had been made by Secretary Kissinger and the Director with the leadership of the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs Committees to provide information to Foreign Affairs on covert activities relating to foreign policy. Braswell said they hoped for support from the Director and lacking any felt there was nothing they could really do about the covert action situation. He said he feels this information will wind up being spread all over the Congress. I urged Braswell to read the Director's letter carefully along with the backup material we had given him for a suggested colloquy on the floor on this similar to the discussion which took place between Senators Hughes, Humphrey and Stennis when the Hughes amendment came up (and was passed) in the Senate in the first Foreign Assistance bill. I told him I felt the only reasonable grounds for taking issue with the Hughes amendment were on grounds of jurisdiction and on the ground that the Foreign Assistance bill was not an appropriate vehicle for establishing legislative jurisdiction on the Agency. It was obvious once again that Braswell feels Senator Stennis is vulnerable in that he has been criticized for lack of oversight of the Agency and has not had hearings on his legislation to amend the National Security Act.

Later in the day, Braswell called to say he, Clark McFadden and Nancy Bearg were putting together a statement for the Senator's use on the Vladivostok agreement and would like to have access tomorrow morning to NIE 11-3/8. He said they wanted this information for background only and had no intention of quoting from it in the Senator's statement. He said they had been in touch with General Scowcroft who had no objection to their having access to the document but obviously seemed to feel it would be better if they obtained it from the Agency rather than from him. I subsequently talked to Mr. Duckett and the Director along with [redacted] about this and received concurrence in providing the material and in providing a substantive expert on anything in the NIE if the staffs had questions about it after their reading of it.

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